

REMARKS

The Office Action of July 26, 2007 was received and carefully reviewed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the currently pending rejections are requested for the reasons advanced in detail below.

Claims 1-7, 9 and 11-44 were pending prior to the instant amendment. Claims 2, 4-7, 9, 11-17, 19, 21-26, 28, 30-35, 37, and 39-44 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this amendment, claims 1, 3 and 18 are amended. Claims 45-48 have been added. Consequently, claims 1, 3, 18, 20, 27, 29, 36, 38, and 45-48 are currently pending for consideration in the instant application.

Applicants submit herewith the Amendment an English Translation of Japanese Priority Document No. 2002-340167 with Declaration. Acknowledgement and consideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 18, 20, 27, 29, 36 and 38 were rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ichijo et al. (US Patent 6,821,828). However, the subject matter of Ichijo et al. is disqualified as prior art in accordance with the MPEP 706.02(l)(3) for examination procedure with respect to 35 U.S.C. 103(c). Thus, in accordance with the MPEP, the present application and Ichijo et al. were, at the time the invention was made, owned by, or subject to an obligation of assignment to, the same person(s) or organization(s). Hence, Ichijo et al. is not available as prior art, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Newly added claims 45-48 each depend from one of independent claims 1 or 3 and are patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 3. Support for the added feature of a pretreatment being performed in

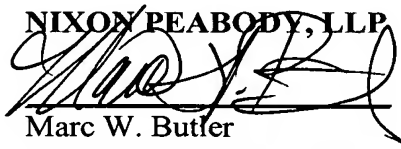
the chamber is found, at least on page 5, lines, 10-11 of Applicants' originally filed specification. In addition, the added feature of "the second amorphous semiconductor film contains hydrogen" is supported, at least, on page 17, lines. 3-5 of Applicants' originally filed specification. No new matter has been added.

In addition, each of the dependent claims also recite combinations that are separately

In view of the foregoing remarks, this claimed invention, as amended, is not rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicant therefore request the entry of this response, the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite issuance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned patent agent at (202) 585-8316.

Respectfully submitted,

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